



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

Seventh District

Date: September 29, 2010

For Immediate Release

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MEMORIAL WALK SHEDS LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Friends of Avitha Rafael will rally at the south end of Crystal Pier at Pacific Beach this Saturday morning, October 2, to take a stand against domestic violence. On August 13, Ms. Rafael was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend as their 10-year-old son watched in horror. Her attacker later committed suicide.

City Councilmember Marti Emerald says this senseless killing is a tragic loss to Ms. Rafael's family, friends, and our entire community.

"Domestic violence claims a new victim in this nation every 15 seconds," said Councilmember Emerald, who chairs San Diego's Family Justice Center Steering Committee. "While other crime is dropping in San Diego, domestic violence is on the rise."

Councilmember Emerald will join the Avitha Rafael Memorial Walk Saturday morning. Walkers will gather south of the Crystal Pier at 8am, with the walk beginning at 9am. Donations will also be gratefully accepted for a memorial fund to benefit Ms. Rafael's 10-year-old son.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Councilmember Emerald urges victims of domestic violence to take advantage of the services available at the Family Justice Center. This one-stop-shop is a local resource offering free services to victims of domestic abuse and violence, from medical care and counseling to housing and prosecution.

For more information, call Councilmember Marti Emerald at 619-236-6677, or the San Diego Family Justice Center at 619-533-6000.

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